

S/N 10/624,333
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 12 and add new claims 28-31 as follows:

1. (Original) A disposable undergarment comprising:

a front body panel comprising a pair of opposite first laterally spaced side edges, a first waist edge and a first crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said first waist edge;

a rear body panel comprising a pair of opposite laterally spaced second side edges, a second waist edge and a second crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said second waist edge, wherein said first and second crotch edges are longitudinally spaced from each other, and wherein at least one of said first and second crotch edges comprises at least one longitudinally extending slit formed therein; and

a crotch member connected to said front and rear body panels and covering said at least one slit.

2. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said front and rear body panels each comprise a body side surface and a garment side surface, and wherein said crotch member is connected to said garment side surface of each of said front and rear body panels.

3. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises a top sheet, a back sheet and a retention portion disposed between said top sheet and said back sheet, wherein at least one of said top sheet and said back sheet comprises an elastic material.

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4. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said first and second crotch edges comprise a first and second longitudinally extending slit formed therein respectively, wherein said crotch member covers said first and second slits.

5. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises opposite sides and at least one fold formed along each of said opposite sides, wherein said at least one fold on said opposites sides are connected to at least one of said front and rear body panels on opposite sides of said slit.

6. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said at least one of said front and rear body panels comprising said at least one slit comprises an elastic material and is expandable between at least a first and second condition, wherein a pair of edges defining said slit are substantially abutted when said at least one of said front and rear body panels comprising said elastic material are in said first condition, and wherein said pair of edges defining said slit are separated when said at least one of said front and rear body panels comprising said elastic material are in said second condition.

7. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 6 wherein said crotch member is connected to said at least one of said front and rear body panel comprising said at least one slit when said at least one of said front and rear body panel comprising said slit is in said second condition.

8. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 6 wherein said crotch member is connected to said at least one of said front and rear body panel comprising said at least one slit when said at least one of said front and rear body panel comprising said slit is in said first condition.

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9. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said front body panel has a first length defined between said first waist edge and said first crotch edge, and wherein said rear body panel has a second length defined between said second waist edge and said second crotch edge, and wherein said slit has a third length, wherein said third length is between about 5% and about 75% of at least one of said first and second lengths.

10. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 9 wherein said third length is between about 10% and about 50% of said at least one of said first and second lengths.

11. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 10 wherein said third length is between about 15% and about 30% of said at least one of said first and second lengths.

12. (Currently Amended) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said crotch member is minimally attached to said front and rear body ~~panel~~ panels along a longitudinally extending centerline of said crotch member.

13. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 further comprising at least one fastener member connected to at least one of said front and rear body panels and releasably engaging the other of said front and rear body panels.

14. (Original) The disposable undergarment of claim 13 wherein said at least one fastener member comprises a pair of fastener members connected to said at least one of said front and rear body panels along one of said pair of opposite laterally spaced first and second side edges.

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Claims 15-27 (Cancelled).

28. (New) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises first and second longitudinal spaced terminal edges, wherein said first and second terminal edges are longitudinally spaced from said first and second crotch edges respectively.

29. (New) The disposable undergarment of claim 28 wherein said crotch member comprises a top sheet and a back sheet defining said first and second terminal edges, and an retention portion disposed between said top sheet and said back sheet.

30. (New) The disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said slit is formed through an entire thickness of said at least one of said first and second crotch edges.

31. (New) The disposable undergarment of claim 30 wherein said front and rear body panels each comprises at least a first and second layer, wherein said at least one slit is formed through said at least said first and second layers.